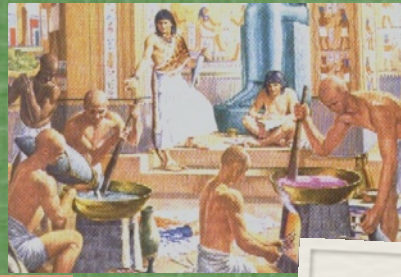


# Egyptian Medicine

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HUMANITIES

CAITLIN AND BRIE



## CHEAT SHEET

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### Dentistry and Diet

In ancient Egypt the diet varied from time to time. At points there were many cases of malnutrition however with growing use of agriculture this became less and less. Due to their diet their health was stunted with adult men reaching about 1.60 meters and adult women reaching 1.50 meters.

Due to lack of vitamins and other nutrients, teeth wearing down and bad oral hygiene cavities occurred often. The teeth tended to be very worn down. Destruction of enamel was one of the main causes for tooth loss at early ages, some losing all their teeth by the time they die which was usually around 40.

If not recognized many people could die from infections and disease of the teeth such as infected cysts, abscesses or other dental diseases. If by chance the teeth were hardly worn down due to diet it reduced the chance of cavities and the person would end up with a perfect set of teeth. The wealthier Egyptians suffered more

cavities than the poor due to more access to sugar in their diets.

The Egyptians had their own way of dealing with cavities. They were sometimes treated with a filling that was made up of resin and a green material containing copper called chrysocolla. Along with fillings the Egyptians could treat weak teeth and tooth aches. They treated swollen gums using a mixture of onion, cumin and incense. It was rare for a tooth to be removed although it is thought that it could have saved many lives.

While there was little to no good dental treatment once dead you had access to restorative dentistry. Mummies have been found with replaced teeth tied in with fine gold wire. There are no real famous dentists from the ancient Egyptian time except Hesi-re who was the first known "Doctor of the Tooth."

### Prostheses, Cosmetics and Surgery

Prostheses were generally found on mummies after death preparing for the afterlife such as artificial toes, forearms, feet, private areas, and glass eyes. However in some cases these were applied to living people such as a wooden big toe to help a 50-60 year old woman walk.

Along with prostheses, cosmetics were also used. Doctors had cures for loss of hair and graying hair. These remedies were made up of many different mixtures such as blood from the horn of a black bull, honey, and fats from crocodiles, lions, hippos, cats, snakes and ibex.

Only some people survived surgery. The surgeries performed were most commonly amputations and circumcisions.